

What is claimed is:

1. A visiting customer management system including a storage medium carried by a customer, in which at least customer identification information is stored, and a non-  
5 contact detector that detects in a non-contact manner the information stored in said storage medium and that is arranged in a shop, comprising:  
a customer information storage device in  
which at least the customer identification information  
10 and a group to which said customer belongs are stored in advance; and  
a visiting-customer information storage device in which customer identification information detected by said non-contact detector is stored in  
15 association with a detection time at which the customer identification information is obtained.
2. A visiting customer management system according to Claim 1, wherein said storage medium is a radio-frequency identification (RFID) tag.
- 20 3. A visiting customer management system according to Claim 1, wherein: customer identification information on other customer who belongs to the same group as said customer is stored in said visiting-customer information storage device; and if the difference between a detection  
25 time at which the customer identification information on said customer is detected and a detection time at which the customer identification information on other customer is detected falls within a predetermined period of time, said customer is recognized to have come with another  
30 member of the group.
4. A visiting customer management system according to Claim 3, wherein if said customer is recognized to have come with another member of the group, a reward is given to said customer.
- 35 5. A visiting customer management system according to Claim 1, further comprising a terminal that includes a detector which detects customer identification

information, wherein: when said detector included in  
said terminal detects customer identification  
information, customer identification information on other  
customer who belongs to the same group as said customer  
5 is read from said customer information storage device;  
and when the customer identification information on other  
customer who belongs to the same group as said customer  
is stored in said visiting-customer information storage  
device, if the difference between a detection time at  
10 which the customer identification information is detected  
and a detection time at which the customer identification  
information on other customer is detected falls within a  
predetermined period of time, said customer is recognized  
to have come with another member of the group.

15 6. A visiting customer management system according  
to Claim 5, wherein said terminal is a POS terminal.

7. A visiting customer management system according  
to Claim 1, further comprising a terminal that includes a  
detector which detects customer identification  
20 information, and a host computer that judges whether a  
customer has come with other member of a group to which  
he/she belongs, wherein:

when said detector included in said  
terminal detects customer identification information,  
25 said terminal reads customer identification information  
on other customer, who belongs to the same group as said  
customer, from said customer information storage device,  
and notifies said host computer of the read customer  
identification information; and

30 when the customer identification  
information on other customer who belongs to the same  
group as said customer is stored in said visiting-  
customer information storage device, if the difference  
between a detection time at which the customer  
35 identification information on said customer is detected  
and a detection time at which the customer identification  
information on other customer is detected falls within a

predetermined period of time, said host computer judges that said customer has come with another member of the group.

5           8.    A visiting customer management system according to Claim 1, further comprising a terminal that includes a detector which detects customer identification information, and a host computer that judges whether a customer has come with other member of a group to which he/she belongs, wherein:

10                       when said detector included in said terminal detects customer identification information, said terminal notifies said host computer of the customer identification information;

                      said host computer reads customer identification information on another customer, who belongs to the same group as said customer, from said customer information storage device; and

                      when the other customer identification information on another customer who belongs to the same group as said customer is stored in said visiting-customer information storage device, if the difference between a detection time at which the customer identification information on said customer is detected and a detection time at which the customer identification information on other customer is detected falls within a predetermined period of time, said host computer judges that said customer has come with another member of the group.

30           9.    A visiting customer management system including a storage medium carried by a customer, in which at least customer identification information is stored, and a non-contact detector that detects in a non-contact manner the information stored in said storage medium and that is arranged in a shop, comprising:

35                       a customer information storage device in which the customer identification information and a group to which said customer belongs are stored in advance; and

a terminal including a detector that detects customer identification information, wherein:

said detector included in said terminal detects the customer identification information on said customer;

said non-contact detector obtains customer identification information on other customers that are present in said shop;

when customer identification information on other member of the group to which said customer belongs corresponds to one of the pieces of customer identification information on other customers that are present in said shop, said customer is recognized to have come with another member of the group.

10. A visiting customer management system according to Claim 9, wherein said storage medium is an RFID tag.

11. A visiting customer management system according to Claim 9, wherein said terminal is a POS terminal.

12. A visiting customer management system according to Claim 9, wherein said non-contact detector is arranged so that it can simultaneously detect the pieces of customer identification information on all the customers that are present in said shop.

13. A visiting customer management system according to Claim 9, wherein when said customer is recognized to have come with other member of the group, a reward is given to said customer.

14. A visiting customer management system including a storage medium carried by a customer, in which at least customer identification information is stored, and a non-contact detector that detects in a non-contact manner the information stored in said storage device and that is arranged in a shop, comprising:

a customer information storage device in which the customer identification information and a group to which said customer belongs are stored in advance;

a terminal including a detector that

detects customer identification information; and

a host computer, wherein:

when said detector included in said terminal detects the customer identification information on said customer, said terminal notifies said host computer of the detected customer identification information;

said host computer obtains customer identification information on other customer, who belongs to the same group as said customer, from said customer information storage device, and notifies said terminal of the customer identification information on other customer; and

if one of pieces of customer identification information on other customers that are present in said shop corresponds to the customer identification information on other member who belongs to the same group as said customer, said terminal judges that said customer has come with other member of the group.

15. A visiting customer management system according to Claim 14, wherein said storage medium is an RFID tag.

16. A visiting customer management system according to Claim 14, wherein said terminal is a POS terminal.

17. A visiting customer management system according to Claim 14, wherein said non-contact detector is arranged so that it can simultaneously detect the pieces of customer identification information on all the customers in said shop.

18. A visiting customer management system according to Claim 14, wherein when said customer is recognized to have come with other member of the group, a reward is given to said customer.

19. A visiting customer management system including a storage medium carried by a customer, in which at least customer identification information is stored, and a non-contact detector that detects, in a non-contact manner,

the information stored in said storage device and that is arranged in a shop, comprising:

a customer information storage device in which the customer identification information and a group  
5 to which said customer belongs are stored in advance;

a terminal including a detector that detects customer identification information; and

a host computer, wherein:

said detector included in said terminal  
10 detects the customer identification information on said customer;

said non-contact detector detects pieces of customer identification information on other customers that are present in said shop;

15 said host computer is notified of the detected customer identification information and the detected pieces of customer identification information on other customers that are present in said shop; and

if customer identification information on  
20 other member of the group to which said customer belongs corresponds to one of the pieces of customer identification information on other customers that are present in said shop, said host computer judges that said customer has come with another member of the group and  
25 notifies said terminal of the result of the judgment.

20. A visiting customer management system according to Claim 19, wherein said storage medium is an RFID tag.

21. A visiting customer management system according to Claim 19, wherein said terminal is a POS terminal.

30 22. A visiting customer management system according to Claim 19, wherein said non-contact detector is arranged so that it can simultaneously detect the customer identification information of all the customers in said shop.

35 23. A visiting customer management system according to Claim 19, wherein when said customer is recognized to have come with other member of the group, a reward is

given to said customer.